

CLAIMS

1. In a knee pad with
a body having an open side, an elbow section and a leg section,
said elbow section and leg section joined to form a corner,
said elbow section and leg section each having opposed side walls
connected by a front wall,
said elbow section and leg section being of different lengths, with
the length of the elbow section being substantially shorter than the
length of the leg section,
said opposed side walls of the elbow section each having an outer
side edge and said front wall of the elbow section having an outer edge
that extends between the outer side edges of the opposed side walls of
the elbow section,
said opposed side walls of the leg section each having an outer
side edge and said front wall of the leg section having an outer edge
that extends between the outer side edges of the opposed side walls of
the leg section, and
a strap member attached to the leg section to extended between
the opposed side walls of said leg section,
the improvement comprising
the outer edges of the front walls of the elbow section and the leg
section are each inwardly contoured forming a concave indentation in
said front walls of the elbow section and the leg section.

2. The improved knee pad of Claim 1 where
the front walls of the elbow section and the leg section are of
substantially the same width and each have a central longitudinal axis,
said longitudinal axes intersecting to form an angle from 90 to

1 100 degrees, and

2 the concave indentation in the elbow section front wall has a
3 zenith at the central longitudinal axis of said elbow section front wall,
4 and

5 the concave indentation in the leg section front wall has a zenith
6 at the central longitudinal axis of said leg section front wall.

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8 3. The improved knee pad of Claim 2 where the opposed side walls
9 of the leg section each have substantially the same width and the
10 distance between the corner and the zenith of the concave indentation
11 in the elbow section front wall is substantially equal to said width of
12 opposed side walls of the leg section.

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14 4. The improved knee pad of Claim 1 where each concave
15 indentation has a depth of from 1 to 2 inches.

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17 5. The improved knee pad of Claim 4 where the depth of each
18 concave indentation is substantially the same.

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20 6. The improved knee pad of Claim 1 where concave indentations
21 have substantially the same shape.

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23 7. The improved knee pad of Claim 1 where concave indentations
24 are sections of a circle.

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26 8. The improved knee pad of Claim 1 where the concave
27 indentations are mirror images.

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29 9. The improved knee pad of Claim 1 where the body is formed

1 from a plurality of separate segments made of durable, pliable sheet
2 material, at least some of said segments having edges that overlap, with
3 the overlapping edges joined by at least one connector.

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5 10. A knee pad adapted to cover the knee of a user comprising
6 a body having an open side, an elbow section and a leg section,
7 said elbow section and a leg section joined to form a corner, and
8 a strap member attached to the leg section that enables the user
9 to secure the knee pad to the user's knee with the knee placed into the
10 open side and seated against the corner,

11 said body being formed from a plurality of separate segments
12 including a front segment having opposed side edges and an inner
13 edge, a pair of side segments, and an elbow segment, each side segment
14 attached to one of the opposed side edges of the front segment, and
15 the elbow segment attached to the inner edge of the front segment,

16 said side segments being substantially at a right angle to the front
17 segment when the strap member secures the knee pad to the user's
18 knee.

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20 11. The knee pad of Claim 10 where the front segment has an outer
21 edge and the elbow segment has an outer edge, each outer edge being
22 inwardly contoured forming a concave indentation respectively in said
23 front segment and said elbow segment.

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25 12. The knee pad of Claim 10 where at least some of the segments
26 overlap to form connection portions and there is at least one connector
27 along and adjoining the overlapping connection portions.

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29 13. The knee pad of Claim 10 where the side segments are

1 substantially rectangular.

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3 14. The knee pad of Claim 13 where the knee pad has a
4 predetermined width and the elbow segment has a width that is
5 substantially wider than the predetermined width of the knee pad to
6 provide outer connector portions that are bent inward to overlap
7 portions of the side segments, said outer connector portions having at
8 least one connector attaching each of said outer connector portions to
9 one side segment.

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11 15. The knee pad of Claim 14 where the elbow segment has opposed
12 rounded corners that project outwardly from the side segments and an
13 outer edge between said rounded corners that is inwardly contoured
14 forming a concave indentation therein.

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16 16. The knee pad of Claim 15 where the front segment has an outer
17 edge that is inwardly contoured forming a concave indentation therein.

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19 17. The knee pad of Claim 10 where
20 the elbow section and a leg section are of substantially the same
21 width and each have a central longitudinal axis and an outer edge that
22 is inwardly contoured forming a concave indentation therein,

23 said longitudinal axes intersecting to form an angle of
24 substantially 90 degrees, and

25 the concave indentation in the elbow section front wall has a
26 zenith at the central longitudinal axis of said elbow section front wall,
27 and

28 the concave indentation in the leg section front wall has a zenith
29 at the central longitudinal axis of said leg section front wall.

1 18. The knee pad of Claim 17 where the side segments form opposed
2 side walls of the leg section, each said side wall having substantially the
3 same width and the distance between the corner and the zenith of the
4 concave indentation in the elbow section front wall being substantially
5 equal to said width of opposed side walls of the leg section.

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7 19. The knee pad of Claim 19 where each concave indentation has a
8 depth of from 1 to 2 inches.

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10 20. The knee pad of Claim 19 where the depth of each concave
11 indentation is substantially the same.

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13 21. The knee pad of Claim 19 where concave indentations have
14 substantially the same shape.

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16 22. The knee pad of Claim 19 where concave indentations are
17 sections of a circle.

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19 23. The knee pad of Claim 19 where the concave indentations are
20 mirror images.

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22 24. The knee pad of Claim 10 where each segment is made of a
23 durable, pliable sheet material.

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25 25. A knee pad comprising
26 a body having an open side, an elbow section and a leg section,
27 said elbow section and a leg section joined to form a corner,
28 said elbow section and leg section each having opposed side walls
29 connected by a front wall,

1 said elbow section and leg section being of different lengths, with
2 the length of the elbow section being substantially shorter than the
3 length of the leg section,

4 said opposed side walls of the elbow section each having an outer
5 side edge and said front wall of the elbow section having an outer edge
6 that extends between the outer side edges of the opposed side walls of
7 the elbow section,

8 said opposed side walls of the leg section each having an outer
9 side edge and said front wall of the leg section having an outer edge
10 that extends between the outer side edges of the opposed side walls of
11 the leg section,

12 said body being formed from a plurality of separate segments
13 made of durable, pliable sheet material, at least some of said segments
14 having edges that overlap, with the overlapping edges joined by at
15 least one connector, and

16 a strap member attached to the leg section to extended between
17 the opposed side walls of said leg section,

18 the outer edges of the front walls of the elbow section and the leg
19 section each being inwardly contoured forming a concave indentation
20 in said front walls of the elbow section and the leg section.

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22 26. The knee pad of Claim 25 having a width of from 4.25 to 5.25. a
23 length of from 5.5 to 8 inches, and the opposed side walls of the leg
24 section have equal widths of from 1.5 to 2.5 inches, the elbow section
25 has a length of from 1.5 to 2,5 inches and opposed rounded corners
26 that project outwardly from the side walls of the leg section, and said
27 opposed rounded corners each have a height of from 3 to 4 inches
28 measured from the front wall of the leg section, and each concave
29 indentation has a depth of from 1 to 2 inches.

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2 27. The knee pad of Claim 25 including a liner material at the open
3 side having one edge portion extending outward from the outer edge
4 the front wall of the elbow section and another edge portion set back
5 from the outer edge of the front wall of the leg section.
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7 28. A method of making a knee pad adapted to cover the knee of a
8 user comprising

9 (a) providing plurality of separate segments each made of a
10 durable, pliable sheet material, said segments including a front
11 segment having opposed side edges and an outer edge and inner edge,
12 a pair of side segments each having an inner edge, outer edge, a
13 forward end and a rear end, and an elbow segment having opposed
14 side edges and an inner edge and an outer edge, said side edges of the
15 elbow segment being spaced apart so that the elbow segment is longer
16 than a predetermined width of the knee pad being made,

17 (b) forming said segments into a body having an open side, an
18 elbow section and a leg section by

19 (i) overlapping a portion of the front segment along the
20 inner edge of the front segment with a portion of the elbow
21 segment along the inner edge of said elbow segment and
22 connecting the overlapping portions together,

23 (ii) overlapping the front segment along one side edge with
24 a portion of the one side segment along the inner edge of said
25 one side segment and connecting the overlapping portions
26 together,

27 (iii) overlapping the other side edge of the front segment
28 with a portion of the other side segment along the inner edge of
29 said other side segment and connecting the overlapping portions

1 together, and

2 (iv) overlapping a portion of the front segment along the
3 inner edge of the front segment with a central portion of the of
4 the elbow segment along the inner edge of said elbow segment
5 and connecting the overlapping portions together so that
6 opposed portions of the elbow segment at said side edges of the
7 elbow segment may be bent inward,

8 (iv) bending the connected segments inward and
9 overlapping the opposed portions of the elbow segment
10 respectively with the forward ends of each side segment and
11 connecting together the overlapping portions the opposed
12 portions of the elbow segment with each said forward ends, and

13 (c) attaching a strap member to extend between the side
14 segments, said side segments and said elbow segment being
15 substantially at a right angle to the front segment when the strap
16 member secures the knee pad to the user's knee.

17 29. The method of Claim 28 where the outer edge of the front
18 segment and the outer edge of the elbow segment are each inwardly
19 contoured to form a concave indentation respectively in said front
20 segment and said elbow segment.
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23 30. The method of Claim 29 where the concave indentations are
24 formed by cutting the front and elbow segments along their respective
25 outer edges prior to connecting the segments together.
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27 31. A method of making a knee pad adapted to cover the knee of a
28 user comprising

29 (a) providing a plurality of separate segments each made of a

1 durable, pliable sheet material and each having side edges,
2 (b) forming said segments into said knee pad by overlapping and
3 connecting portions of the segments along their side edges, including
4 bending said connected portions inward to provide said knee pad with
5 a body having an open side, an elbow section and a leg section, said leg
6 section having side walls formed from at least a pair of said segments
7 connected to another segment forming a front wall of the leg section,
8 said pair of segments being substantially at a right angle to the
9 segment forming the front wall of the leg section.